



DINING

ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
The UCook Kitchen, located in the dining hall, has finished construction. However, it is still waiting on deliveries to be made before the doors can officially open.

DELAYS

Setbacks hinder opening timeline

HANNAH CLAYWELL
News Editor | @Hannah_9504

As the year continues, dining options at Northwest remain closed, and dates continue to be pushed back.

Last year, Northwest signed a new dining contract with Sodexo Operations, LLC, and several changes were promised to students, like new restaurant options. Students came back to campus expecting all new options and renovations to be completed and open.

Then, a new set of tentative dates were given. Now, those tentative dates have been pushed back, again. Sodexo General Manager Casey Benton said the dining hall is still progressing toward the completion of all areas.

“Timelines can be very challenging, yes, we have them, and we are getting closer every day, it isn’t our goal nor a best practice to not meet them,” Benton said in an email to The Missourian.

Qdoba was set to open in mid- to late September and was opened by the end of the month. McAlister’s goal was to open mid-November — this has been pushed back until late January. Buffalo Wild Wings was set to open Feb. 1 and is now set to open late February to early March.

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs: Residential and Auxiliary Services Rose Viau said a lot of the dates being pushed back was because of some issues and complications.

“Just because at every turn, there’s just some little something, that is usually out of everyone’s control, that’s affecting things,” Viau said.

One of the setbacks was when a delivery truck Sodexo ordered was being delivered, the driver got in a severe accident that put him in intensive care and completely destroyed the truck. A new delivery truck had to be built, and the dining team is waiting on it to be completed.

Some of the setbacks are with the engineering teams and design teams, both at Northwest and with Sodexo. Processes of getting things running are taking longer than anticipated.

“It’s not even our on-ground team that has any responsibility for the late openings of anything,” Viau said. “So we’re trying hard to, you know, come up with a good program for students and are really interested in feedback.”

The UCook Kitchen’s construction is completed, and there are just a few things still being delivered, but Viau said hopefully it will be running in the next few days.

Qdoba is set to see a few more changes, with the paper sheets to order being taken away. Orders will just be taken at the counter, and customers will just tell the workers what they want on their meal.

The meal exchange option for Qdoba is also on its way to being finished. Viau said the programmer has not responded in two weeks and is handling a family issue, but someone else is working on getting it added. Viau and Benton had a meeting Oct. 24 to get the meal exchange option running within the next couple of days.

SEE DINING | A4

Tattoo artist charged following shooting

Richard E. Chance, 48, has been charged with four felonies following a shooting where one person was injured Oct. 18 at Inque Jester Tattoo on 921 S. Main St.

The charges against the tattoo artist included assault to the second degree, two counts of assault to the third degree and unlawful use of a weapon.

Following the announcement of the closure of Inque Jester Tattoo, a witness at the incident said Chance was upset about having to leave the shop. Chance’s girlfriend said he was there to pack up his things from the business when he got into an argument, according to a probable cause statement.

According to the probable cause statement, a witness was threatened by Chance when they entered the building after hearing yelling coming from inside. The argument led to Chance punching the man in the face.

Chance then pulled a firearm on the man and his wife, telling him to leave the building and threatening to shoot the man if he didn’t.

Chance then fired a shot past the head of the man, through the front window of the business.

Others in the shop fled the building following the shot. The argument continued to intensify, with Chance punching the man a second time during the argument, later claiming he did hit the man twice in self defense.

SEE SHOOTING | A4

Regents talk online safety for students, Northwest’s credit rating

HANNAH CLAYWELL
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Cybersecurity continues to be an important topic to Northwest faculty and staff. The Northwest Board of Regents discussed how the school is combating any cyber threats at its Oct. 20 meeting.

Assistant Vice President of Information Technology Brennan Lehman said in just the past 30 days, around 2.3 million emails were received at Northwest, and 291 of those were viruses.

“\$50 billion is the amount the IRS has spent on cybersecurity in the past since 2018,” Lehman said.

Phishing attacks are the number one offender, and attacks are becoming more sophisticated, Lehman said, with AI becoming more common and proficient, it is also making phishing emails less recognizable. Northwest itself has taken initiatives to combat any phishing, with external email warnings, response software and a few other ideas implemented.

SEE SECURITY | A4



INFOGRAPHIC
BY SAVANNAH ATHY-
SEDBROOK DESIGN EDITOR

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HOMEcoming



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest student Deep Shikha proudly raises the Indian flag during the International Flag Raising Ceremony Oct. 20.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Concluding the annual Homecoming Variety Show at Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts Mary Linn Auditorium Oct. 19, senior Darren Ross and junior Obioma Miracle Nwuba were crowned king and queen.



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
Northwest Missouri senior feature twirler Jessica Alcorn performs a three-baton routine with the Bearcat Marching Band shortly after the Homecoming Parade Oct. 21.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
During the performance Bobby Gon' Wild at the Homecoming Variety Show, Northwest student Phillip Motazedi acts as Bobby Bearcat as he travels through the jungle to find his original parents Oct. 19.



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER
Northwest President Lance Tatum explains the importance of the Bell of '48 and its ringing with Student Senate President Elizabeth Motazedi to onlookers at 8 a.m. Oct. 20.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Bobby Bearcat guides the participants of the annual International Flag Raising Ceremony to the Joyce and Harvey White International Flag Plaza for the event to begin Oct. 20.

Darren Ross named king, Obioma Nwuba as queen

Senior Darren Ross and junior Obioma Nwuba were named 2023 Homecoming king and queen during the Variety Show Oct. 19.

Ross, a computer science major from St. Louis, Missouri, said he had confidence going into the ceremony, as he did a lot to campaign. He said he was looking for support from the people he knows across campus.

“I think it was like a hard-work-pays-off kind of feel, so I really was, like, smiling very hard,” Ross said. “I was like, ‘Wow, these people in this room not only support me, but they also really appreciate the fact that I was nominated as Homecoming king.’”

Nwuba, an early childhood education major

from Anambra State, Nigeria, said she was honored to be on the Homecoming Court, but was incredibly grateful to be named queen.

“One of my biggest dreams is to basically show what is possible and create that representation,” Nwuba said. “And just let people know that wherever you go, whichever part of the world, you can still do good things. You can still do great things. You can still thrive. So just knowing that I have walked a path, and I have left a trail that others can see, it’s truly heartwarming for me.”

Other Homecoming awards, like winners of donation creation, float, dancing clowns and more were announced Oct. 25. For more coverage on those winners, visit [nwmissourinews.com](#).



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest student Brittany Stallo sang “Chasing Cars” by Nate Smith during the annual Homecoming Variety Show Oct. 19. Stallo was one of the four olio performances throughout the event.



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER

Northwest junior A'maya Woods, senior Sherry Harper and sophomore Shaviyah Sese dress up to join the Homecoming Parade Oct. 21 and promote the Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant, as well as their participation in the contest. The group makes up three of the seven total students competing this year at the pageant 6 p.m. Nov. 2.

Pageant showcases 7 women for chance to win scholarships

ANNA BAILEY
News Reporter | @AmBailey16

The Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant will be showcasing the beauty, talents and speaking abilities of seven Black women who are students on campus. Alphi Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will be hosting this event Nov. 2 in the Charles Johnson Theater at the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building. Four of the women participating will be crowned, and each will receive a scholarship with varying amounts. The pageant will consist of four different sections that include an introduction portion, talent section, swimsuit section and ballgown section, where the women will answer a question either about themselves or about issues within the community or culture today. There will also be a group number that includes all of the women who are contestants at the beginning of the pageant.

A'maya Woods

The first of the seven participants is junior A'maya Woods. Woods is studying human services with hope to work with adolescents who grew up in tough homes after graduation. On campus, Woods participates in the Black Student Union as well as the Northwest Dance Company. In her past, Woods said she was not someone who was big on extracurriculars, but this year a couple opportunities lined up for her. For the talent section, Woods will be performing a dance that her younger sister choreographed. Woods was a competitive dancer for 10 years. In her senior year of high school, the dance studio she worked with closed down due to COVID-19, so she has not had many opportunities to dance since. "All these opportunities kind of fell in my lap as my junior year came out," Woods said. "I found out about Dance Company, started doing that, and then this project came up and I thought well, you know, do another solo as a last hurrah type thing." Because of her time in dance, Woods said she believes she may be coming in with a bit of experience, though this is her first pageant. Woods said that, like pageants, in dance the goal is to get on stage and be able to look pretty, proper and win.

Jaelee Pittel

Senior Jaelee Pittel is a general studies major with a concentration in theater, education and communication. After graduation, she has plans to open an event planning business with her mother. Pittel has never participated in a pageant before, but she said she is looking forward to being able to perform her talent portion of the event. For the talent portion, she will be speed painting and dancing. On campus, she is involved in United States Institute Theater Technology as the vice president. She is a hip-hop choreographer and the merchandise chair for the Northwest Dance Company. She is involved in Student Senate and is the senior class representative.

Allisyn Neal

Neal is a senior at Northwest and is studying applied health science. After graduation, she will be continuing her education by going to nursing school and completing an accelerated BSN program. As well as studying at Northwest, she is also a member of Phi Mu - Zeta Lambda Chapter, and she is an employee at both the Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville and A Step Ahead Dance Company. Neal said she is looking forward to this pageant, and more specifically, she is looking forward to the interview section so that she can share with the judges what has made her, her. For the talent portion, Neal will be doing a Latin jazz dance accompanied by "La Copa De La Vida." Since she was 10 years old, Neal has been participating in pageants like Miss America's Outstanding Teen. She was just recently Miss Northwest Volunteer, and she competed for Miss Missouri Volunteer in January.

Paola Kangni-Soukpe

Paola Kangni-Soukpe is in her junior year of studying bio-psychology. She is a member of the Northwest cheer team and the sorority Phi Mu - Zeta Lambda Chapter on campus. Once she graduates, she is planning on getting a job in a hospital while she works on getting accepted into a medical or physician assistant school. This will be the first pageant that Kangni-Soukpe has ever participated in. For the talent portion, she will be doing a cheer performance that will incorporate some of her tumbling skills.

Shaviyah Sese

Shaviyah Sese is a sophomore at Northwest and has been working toward getting an education degree. She also grew up not too far from Maryville — in Kansas City, Missouri — and she enjoys taking care of her 23 plants. Along with being a part of the pageant, Sese is also involved in the Black Student Union as the vice president and the sergeant at arms.

Denise Neal

For her talent portion, junior Denise Neal will be doing a spoken-word reading from the book "Untamed" by Glennon Doyle. Denise Neal said this reading is special to her because this book helped her change her perspective on how to be comfortable with her identity. Like her sister, Allisyn Neal, Denise Neal has been a part of the pageant world since she was a kid. Denise Neal had always been a little less involved in the pageant than her sister, but she said she was still always there with her sister. Being a part of this pageant with her sister, Denise Neal said, is like a full circle, and she is really excited to be able to compete next to her sister. Along with participating in the pageant, Denise Neal is also majoring in psychology with a minor in diversity, equality and inclusion, is an active member of Alpha Sigma Alpha - Phi Phi Chapter, the president of the Black Student Union and is a student worker at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Sherry Harper

Another participant in the Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant is senior Sherry Harper. Harper has little experience with pageants, having done one when she was 15. Harper's father is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and, since she was young, Harper has been going to Miss Black and Gold Pageants with her family. She remembers these pageants as a fun time when she used to dress up with her mom and imagined herself as one of the participants. Growing up, Harper also participated in choir and musicals, however she has not performed since her senior year of high school. This pageant will be the first time since then that she will be singing for an audience. Harper said she is nervous but is very excited. She is also excited for the opening dance with all of the other participants. During her time at Northwest, Harper has been studying psychology with the hope to do behavioral therapy for children with autism. She is also a member of the Black Student Union, a student ambassador for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and a founder and chair of the Black Student Leaders Committee.

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Oct. 26

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Oct. 22
There is an open investigation for sexual assault - rape in Dieterich Hall.

MORE INFORMATION

University Police Chief Clarence Green said in an email to The Missourian the victim reported they did not give consent and knew the suspect. It appears the incident was targeted toward the victim only. There is no information indicating a continued threat at this time. The victim has indicated they do not want to pursue criminal charges. UPD is continuing to investigate and when that is done, it will be shared with Title IX.

There is an open investigation for property damage in Parking Lot 2.
There is a closed investigation for a vehicle accident with **Gopi S. Gubballa**, 28, on Centennial Drive.

Oct. 21
There is an open investigation for stealing in Parking Lot 10.

Oct. 20
There is a closed investigation on **Koteswara Gudapati**, 28, for trespassing in Parking Lot 55.
There is a closed investigation for a liquor law violation on University Drive.

Oct. 19
There is a closed investigation for stealing in the J.W. Jones Student Union.
There is an open investigation for stealing in Parking Lot 59.
There is a closed investigation for a fire in the J.W. Jones Student Union.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in the J.W. Jones Student Union.
There is a closed investigation on **Molly J. Clouse**, 20, for under 21 possession of illegal identification.
There is a closed investigation for harassment in the second degree in Franken Hall.

MORE INFORMATION

University Police Chief Clarence Green said in an email to The Missourian the victim reported that they saw a person that caused them concern when they were in the fifth grade. They believed the person was following them. They did not want the prosecutor to pursue criminal charges. Resources were provided, and the report was shared with Title IX. Contact was made with the suspect.

Oct. 18
There is a closed investigation for a vehicle accident with **Keegan I. Helton**, 18, in Parking Lot 42.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in South Complex.

Oct. 17
There is a closed investigation for sexual abuse in the second degree - forcible fondling in Perrin Hall.

MORE INFORMATION

University Police Chief Clarence Green said in an email to The Missourian the victim reported two males were meeting with her and one touched her on her genitals without consent. She did not want the prosecutor to pursue criminal charges. Resources were provided, and the report was shared with Title IX. Both males are not students and were issued trespass warnings, banning them from campus.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Oct. 21
There was an accident between Alexandria M. Shewey, 25, and Sue A. Wood, 75, on the 1900 block of South Main Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for a domestic disturbance on the 800 block of East Fourth Street.

Oct. 18
There was a summons issued to **Ted A. Coffelt**, 59, for driving while revoked on the 200 block of West Twelfth Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for fraud on the 1300 block of South Main Street.
There was a summons issued to **Talombonte Luleye**, 31, for driving while intoxicated, no valid drivers license and speeding on U.S. Highway 71 and East South Avenue.

Council talks enhanced enterprise zone, visitor data tracking

HANNAH CLAYWELL
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Maryville City Council came together to discuss a wide variety of ordinances at the Oct. 23 meeting, all of which were approved.
Nodaway County Economic Development Executive Director Josh McKim came forward to discuss the creation of an enhanced enterprise zone specifically for Nodaway County.

A state level enhanced enterprise zone was formed in 2012 and has since ended, but the local level continues to be a tool used for property tax abatements for improvements to a property. This zone is a specific geographic area that has been granted specific tax breaks that encourages the creation of jobs.
“It is only on improvements, and it has to be a permanent, substation improvement to the building, that would increase the real property value of that building,” McKim said.
McKim said the old state enhanced enterprise zone was restrictive, and the new one would help businesses and open the community to more business opportunities.
The new enhanced enterprising zone would not get rid of any revenue any business has coming in, but it would expand the list of businesses who qualify for the tax abatements, a



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
Maryville Assistant City Manager Ryan Heiland presents multiple ordinance proposals to the City Council concerning Mozingo Lake Recreation Park and its Visitor Center Oct. 23.

reduction in taxes, that would come with this program.
Council voted to approve the creation of the Nodaway County Enhanced Enterprise Zone.
Another area for discussion at the Council meeting was a contract with Place Labs, Inc. for Placer.ai location analytics. Maryville Tourism Director DeAnn Davison said she identified the need to track and study visitor information.
This company would be tracking different trends in Maryville, like where money is being spent that Davison said would optimize tourism efforts. Placer.ai is an analytics platform that collects geolocation data from mobile devices that enables it to be shared with the city.
“They’re tracking it anyway, so we might as well use it,” Davison said.
The information given is shared in

an anonymous fashion, so it does not share any names or addresses. The data can also go back around seven years so the changes in trends can be seen. Council approved the contract to share the data with the city.

Other City Council Business:
• Council approved a grant agreement with the Missouri Department of Economic Development through the Missouri ARPA Community Revitalization Grant Program for the Downtown Pedestrian Alleyway Project, from South Main Street to Buchanan Street.
• Council approved a grant agreement with the Missouri Department of Economic Development through the Missouri ARPA Community Revitalization Grant Program for the Mozingo Lake Visitor Center Project.

SECURITY CONTINUED FROM A1

University President Lance Tatum talked about the importance of having a digitally secure campus and how it helps students not get any information stolen.
“A student today is living probably more than 78% of their life in a digital space, whether it be through Canvas in their classes or how they access their financial rewards...,” Tatum said. “We increasingly talk about trying not to make their life overly difficult as a student, but also know that at every turn they can be compromised, and their security can be placed in jeopardy... so it’s not an easy daily balance.”
The Barracuda Network on students’ emails is something that Northwest does to help prevent any phishing.

Northwest’s credit rating
Vice President of Finance and Administration Stacy Carrick then presented Moody’s Corporation credit rating of Northwest, which is the financial situation of the University and a predictor for future years.
This rating happens every three years, though it did get off schedule because of COVID-19 and are now getting back onto a schedule. The review was just completed within late September and early October.
Universities are rated on a two-part scale, the first part being a letter grade, which is anywhere from AAA to C, with AAA being the highest rating a university can receive. The next part is the number system, which goes from one to three, with one being the best. These all work together to make a rating on the same scale. Northwest received an A2 rating, which Carrick said was good.
“When we went through it at 2022, they left us at stable, felt like we were in a very good position from COVID and now they have upgraded us to positive, so that is very good for us,” Carrick said.
In 2019, the University was given an A3 rating. The report showed that Northwest has improved and has a positive outlook, Carrick said a lot of other universities’ ratings went down in the past years.
She said this is especially good since Northwest has a large energy infrastructure project coming up that will cost a lot of money and put on debt. The project is a \$105 million expense and would add around \$20 million in debt to Northwest.



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER
Assistant Vice President of Information Technology Brennan Lehman explains how Northwest is combating cyber threats to the Board of Regents at its meeting Oct. 20.

Other Board of Regent Business:
• Assistant Vice President of Institutional Research and Effectiveness Egon Heidendal and Assistant Vice President of Admissions and Student Success Allison Hoffman discussed a retention conduct study the University is going to perform to see what it can do to try to increase retention rates.
• The creation of a bachelor of science in economics and a bachelor of science in marketing were approved for the fall of 2024.

SHOOTING CONTINUED FROM A1

When police arrived at the scene, it was apparent a round had been fired through the front glass of the business, according to the statement. One person was injured on his earlobe, but said they were unsure if it was from the gunshot or if it was from the muzzle blast from the gun being fired near his head.
Chance’s bond was set to \$100,000, allowing a 10% cash deposit and conditions of release, according to the bond supervision order.
Those conditions include appearing in court, not possessing

or using alcohol or nonprescribed controlled substances, supervision by private probation services, an installed GPS and SCRAM Continuous Alcohol Monitoring bracelet ankle monitor, a curfew and more, according to the order. The bond order also called for Chance to obtain a mental health evaluation within seven days of release.
A hearing for the review of Chance’s bond is scheduled for 9 a.m. Oct 31 at the Nodaway County Courthouse in the Associate Circuit Courtroom with Associate Circuit Court Judge Robert Rice.
There will be a preliminary hearing at 1 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Nodaway County Courthouse in the Associate Circuit Courtroom.

DINING CONTINUED FROM A1

Viau said she has heard some concerns from students about where they can use their dining dollars if all the restaurants are not open. She said the dining dollars will be rolling over,

so even if students do not use them all this semester, they can still use them the next semester.
“All I can say, my team and I are very grateful the entire student body has been so understanding,” Benton said in an email to The Missourian.
All new dates are tentative and subject to change.

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TV shows can bring awareness to big issues in everyday life



SIDNEY LOWRY
Columnist
@sidney_lowry

Love. Hate. Grief. Identity. Struggle. Sex. Each one of these are common themes that shows and movies are based around, but I haven’t found one that encompasses everything quite like “Sex Education.”

The Netflix original series, first released in 2019, follows the lives of many teenagers and adults and explores a multitude of topics surrounding personal struggles, most relating to sexual intimacy.

The first season simply showed young adults navigating through life with newfound issues with relationships, but as I watched the final season, it took on bigger problems and brought awareness to everyday issues some people may not think about.

Same as the characters, the themes throughout the seasons have matured. Issues started with liking someone and trying to determine if they shared those feelings. The new seasons introduced the difficult encounters people with disabilities face each day, struggles with finding yourself within religion, rebuilding a relationship between father and son, transitioning, sexual assault and the therapy from a traumatic event along with so much more.

By the fifth episode of the season, I found myself with tears in my eyes. What once started as a raunchy comedy about teenagers working through sexual intimacy problems is now talking about some of the most common and real problems people face in their lives.

Eric Effiong, played by Ncuti Gatwa, has spent the entirety of the show finding out where he belongs. He plays an openly gay man who struggles to find where he stands in his religious Ghanaian-Nigerian family. The final season walks viewers through his relationship with God and being accepted by his family and the church community.

Maeve Wiley, played by Emma Mackey, comes from a rough childhood, her family full of addicts. The progression of her and her mother’s relationship through the seasons portray a very real struggle of people still loving their addicted family members, while having to make hard decisions to continue to do what is right for themselves.

Each character has their own storyline, their own struggles, that are intricately woven in with one another. I am not able to include every hard-hitting topic this show was able to meticulously navigate through, but I can’t boast enough about the way the creators were able to address these problems. Despite TV shows being for entertainment, they can be used to shine a light onto the heartbreaking and difficult fights that people put up every single day.

While you may need a box of tissues, take time out of your day to watch this. It brings attention to real issues through relatable characters and creates a conversation on how people deal with everything from everyday problems to life-shattering events.



HAILEY JOHNSON-NEESER CARTOONIST

OUR VIEW:

Moments of diversity should be celebrated, not forgotten

Senior Darren Ross and junior Obioma Miracle Nwuba were named the 2023 Homecoming King and Queen at the Variety Show Oct. 19. This year, both the crowned Homecoming King and Queen were people of color.

This representation is important, especially to minority students on campus.

Northwest exemplifies diversity in a multitude of ways from student organizations to planned activities during heritage months. Students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to celebrate their diversity — a very significant opportunity, especially in the Midwest.

Last year, University Police Chief Clarence Green was the first Black president of the University. Minority students should be able to see themselves represented, especially in leadership positions. For this reason, Green being named president is another milestone for Northwest that shouldn’t be understated.

With Northwest being a predominantly white University, at 80.6% of the student body, these different occasions are incredibly important for representation of people who sometimes feel they may not belong.

Of the just over 10,000 people in

Maryville, only 8.8% are a racial minority. With the city surrounding campus not having a lot of representation, it is important to have opportunities for underrepresented students to find their space and feel fully accepted. Efforts made toward diversity and inclusion on campus are one of the factors that play into giving these students a space they feel comfortable in.

The Jump Start Program was started for students from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds to build a community, get involved and gain access to resources. The Black Student Union embraces black culture in all forms intellectually and socially and has a huge focus on awareness. The International Student Organization (I.S.O.) establishes a supportive, fun environment for students to learn about each other’s cultures.

The Minority Men’s Association (MMO) aims to support minority men through their time in college. The Indian Student Organization (ISA) supports Indian students during their time at Northwest. The African Student Organization (ASO) brings awareness and comfort to international African students while attending the University.

Also offered for students are historically Black fraternities and soror-

ities Omega Psi Phi, Alpha Phi Alpha, Phi Beta Sigma and Delta Sigma Theta. All of these groups allow students to find their place on campus and provide a safe place for them to express their culture, beliefs and way of life.

Even during Homecoming week, the University hosts an International Flag Raising ceremony where students can raise the flag of their home country and show pride for where they come from. Students show up in traditional clothing and jewelry, with flags and excitement at participating in an event that makes them feel closer to home.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion also provides training such as the J.E.D.I. program, Bobbyshop, Safe Zone and ‘I See You.’ All of these programs aim to help students from all backgrounds improve their well-being and experience on campus.

Northwest tries to foster an environment that helps students feel accepted. It is so important for Northwest to continue making the effort for minority students, especially those who don’t see themselves in the population they’re surrounded by.

Don’t just breeze by these milestones, continue to celebrate and progress toward creating a space where anyone can feel welcomed.

YOUR VIEW:

What is one way Northwest has made you feel included?

Tyrell Childress
Junior
Mass media
broadcasting major



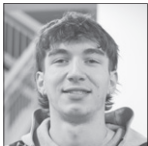
“The Office of Diversity and Inclusion, they just have been amazing.”

Meagan Moreland
Sophomore
Elementary education
major



“The ODI space celebrating every Heritage Month that there is.”

Justin Oxford
Freshman
Exercise science major



“Walking around and being asked questions about people asking to join clubs and stuff.”

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat hates Maryville late hours

I absolutely hate having to go anywhere in this town late at night.

I can’t drive more than a block without a cop pulling out behind me and driving ever so closely that you get worried but not close enough that you’re actually getting pulled over.

Don’t give me the, “If you’re not doing anything wrong, what are you worried about?” because I know I ride that yellow line pretty close some-

times. All I have to do is push my luck on a Saturday night, and the cherries and berries are gonna light up behind me.

It sure doesn’t help that they have three different teams to cover ground with, either.

Say I do finally make it to my destination, it doesn’t get much better. I am almost always met by a face that seems to wish I never even existed.

Look, I don’t wanna be here, either. But you’re the only place

in town that’s open this late that satisfies my need for fried potatoes. And don’t get me started with McDonald’s switching to cash-only 1 a.m., I just want to use my free fry deal.

First of all, you’re getting paid for being out this late while I’m out spending money I don’t even have. You’re safe in your establishment, while I have to hope to contain my road rage while I wait an hour at each stop light.

Finally, everything just feels unnaturally far away. Everybody jokes about how small of a town this is, but I swear it takes me less time to get to Iowa than it does to go from campus to Walmart. And when you’re out late, you’d rather get back before the Northwest squirrels conduct their nightly meeting.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of the Northwest Missourian.

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Northwest football aims to finish season strong after Homecoming loss

WESLEY MILLER
Managing Editor | @wesleymiller360

Northwest football is back on the road after its worst Homecoming loss in 35 years dropped its record to 4-4 — no team in Division II made the playoffs in 2022 with four losses.

With just three weeks left in the season — and the program’s Division-II record of 18-straight playoff appearances in jeopardy — the Bearcats are looking to finish it out strong.

Their first chance at building up confidence is against Washburn at 1 p.m. Oct. 28 in Topeka, Kansas. It’ll be the first of two-straight road games for Northwest.

Coach Rich Wright and sophomore defensive tackle Clayton Power said it’s been a bit of unusual feeling after the loss on Homecoming.

“I mean, at first, obviously after the game Saturday, it was, you know, just kind of a weird feeling — didn’t really know how to feel about it,” Power said. “We got a new opponent to focus on, so I think just kind of getting back in the groove of, ‘We got another week to go out there and play an opponent,’ so we have to prepare the same way we do everybody else but definitely the past couple days haven’t felt great.”

“You know, we’re all in uncharted territory,” Wright said. “I’m not gonna sugarcoat it, I mean, Sunday was a hard day. The thing that we had to get through — and I thought our kids did a phenomenal job to respond to it — is I went into the meeting on Monday, and I said, ‘How do you feel?’ And I let them grieve it out. I let them talk about it and let them share a little bit of how they were feeling.”

Wright said the team discussion then shifted to how it was going to respond to the loss. He said Northwest can’t change how the season’s gone, but it can control how it ends.

In the press conference after the 28-7 loss to No. 2 Pittsburg State, Wright said great football teams need great leaders from within, and when it happens for Northwest, the “script will flip.”

In Northwest Athletics media luncheon at Maryville’s The Palms Bar & Grill Oct. 24, the seventh-year coach expanded on what he meant.

“We have phenomenal kids here — we’ve always had phenomenal kids here,” Wright said. “There’s a level of personal accountability and holding each other accountable in everything that we do, and that’s probably one of the most difficult things to teach young people. The teams that we’ve had that have been great, you know, that’s been the dynamic that’s been the secret sauce, and we just have to learn how to be comfortable being uncomfortable with one another.”

In recent years, the Bearcats and Ichabods (1-7) have battled to the end. Their last two meetings have been decided by 2 or few-

UP NEXT

NW vs. Washburn

1 p.m. Oct. 28

Topeka, Kansas

er points. Northwest’s last trip to Washburn ended in a 1-point, 17-16 loss in 2021.

The Bearcats have defeated the Ichabods in 16 of their last 17 meetings, including in a 32-30 thriller last season.

The Ichabods are ninth in the MIAA in points per game (21.9) and 10th in points allowed (36.1) — out of 12 teams. Their lone win this season came in 24-10 fashion against Lincoln (0-8) in Week 3 Sept. 16.

The Bearcats average 26.9 points per game, which is good enough for eighth in the conference, and are No. 4 in points allowed, allowing an average of 23.4 points per contest.

“They’ve been playing much better over the last couple of weeks,” Wright said of the Ichabods. “Starting fast is going to be important — obviously, we want to do that every week. But, you know, Washburn’s improving, and what they’re doing is trying to lay the foundation for that next generation of players. And, they’re doing it by playing a lot of young guys.”

Northwest’s rushing attack is led by sophomore running back Jay Harris, who is second in Division II with 1,070 rushing yards. Central Oklahoma junior running back Trevon Woolfolk is the closest MIAA rusher to Harris’ number, and he has 735 yards.

For Northwest, the last three weeks of the season are an opportunity to find some confidence before the offseason. The Bearcats first eight foes of the season have a combined record of 40-16. Their next three are a combined 4-20.

Northwest’s next three opponents are all in the bottom three of the MIAA in points scored per game, and two of them are in the bottom three for points allowed.

As the Bearcats are set to hit the road for consecutive weeks, Power said he’s looking forward to the time with his teammates.

“I mean, there’s always a challenge playing in environments that are a little different from what we’re used to at home, but I think we’re looking forward to being able to spend more time together in our final three weeks,” Power said.

Wright said the task remains the same for the team heading into the last three weeks of the regular season.

“I’m thinking about going out and winning three football games and finishing 7-4,” Wright said. “I’m gonna roll with the guys that we got — guys who got us to this point and the guys that have been here — and I’m gonna let them enjoy every second of their college football career because when it’s over, you don’t get it back.”



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER
Northwest football sophomore running back Jay Harris hugs coach Rich Wright after receiving the Don Black Award after the 28-7 loss against Pittsburg State Oct. 21.



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER
Northwest football senior quarterback Mike Hohensee sprints the ball 9 yards down the field during the first half of the Bearcats’ 28-7 loss against Pittsburg State Oct. 21.



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER
Northwest football sophomore defensive tackle Kobe Clayborne tackles Pittsburg State junior tight end Dallas Bond in the second half of a 28-7 loss against Pittsburg State Oct. 21.

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM A8

With the loss, Northwest is looking at ways to regroup. Woerth said the Bearcats are looking at different lineups to see who plays best together going into the weekend.

“We, as a team, need to play better individually, so we can play better as a team,” Woerth said. “So, what that’s going to look like is we’ve got some practices that we’ll go ahead and have and see what we get out of practice to have a starting lineup because we changed quite a bit tonight.”

Northwest is back home for its next four matches, including Washburn and Emporia. Junior middle hitter Abby Brunssen said the Bearcats are excited to be in Bearcat Arena.

“We’ve been on the road for a while, and it’s nice not to be on a bus,” Brunssen said. “We have three big games this week, and I think the squad’s just really excited and pretty hyped to get it going.”

DISTRICTS

CONTINUED FROM A8

If the Spoofhounds win their first game, they will already be in the championship at 6 p.m. Nov. 1 against either second-seeded Cristo Rey (7-4) or third-seeded Frontier STEM (7-8). Coach Matt Stoecklein said his team is prepared.

“The boys are ready and focused to play,” Stoecklein said. “We already talked about how important this game is, and we will have our best three practices this week to prepare for it.”

As this is Stoecklein’s first year coaching for soccer, it could be a memorable one if he and his team wins districts.

As the four-time district championship coach for Maryville boys basketball is looking to get another trophy, Stoecklein wants more than a district championship.

“It would be awesome to go that far and to even go farther on in the season,” Stoecklein said.

RACES

CONTINUED FROM A8

Bade also said he has had to change the way the team is preparing for the postseason. Normally the team focuses on stamina and endurance to make sure they can finish meets strong. This week, Bade is having his runners focus on staying loose and rested for the district meet.

“We saw some things over the past few meets that we need to fix and work on,” Bade said. “Keeping everyone on pace and making sure we go into the meet and into state healthy is what I want the team to focus on this week.”

Bade is in charge of both the boys and girls runners. This is his tenth season at the helm for both teams.

The boys have seen plenty of success under Bade, with four-straight appearances at the state meet. The same story can’t be told for the girls team, as the team hasn’t been present at the state meet since 1993.

The girls finished second at the Midland Empire Conference meet with junior Katherine Pohren finishing first overall with a time of 20 minutes, 54 seconds and 26 milliseconds. Maryville also had junior Nyah Davis and freshman Audrey Deering finish third and fourth in the meet with respective marks of 22:19.98 and 22:20.77.

Bade said this is the deepest roster of athletes he can remember for his girls team, and he is excited to see what it can do at districts.

“I feel good heading into this weekend,” Pohren said. “We have three girls who are close, and we just need to compete hard. I like our chances to move on, and I’m excited for the chance at competing in the state meet.”

The Spoofhounds’ runners for both teams are familiar with the track because it is the same course the teams ran on for districts last season.

The meet features Maryville and familiar foes such as the Spoofhound’s Highway 71 rival in Savannah, Chillicothe and Cameron.

“We feel good heading into the weekend, but we don’t want to allow the pressure to get to us,” Bade said. “The boys and girls both look pretty good. Once we qualify, then we can move onto what is possible for state. Every year that we can qualify is a huge win for the program.”

KEY MARYVILLE XC FINISHES

Spoofhound Invitational

Boys
Second Place

Connor Blackford
Senior
Second place in 5K
17:04.64

Raymore-Peculiar

Connor Blackford
Senior
First place in Small School 5K
16:41.10

Mount Ayr

Boys
First Place

Bradley Deering
Junior
First place in 5K
17:04.36

Connor Blackford
Senior
Second place in 5K
17:35.96

Midland Empire Conference Championship

Boys
Second place

Girls
Second place

Katherine Pohren
Junior
First place in 5K
20:54.26

INFOGRAPHIC BY DELANIE DYKES MISSOURIAN DESIGNER

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ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest women’s tennis sophomore Marielena Muench and junior Laura Prieto Sieiro walk back to the court to continue practice Oct. 16.

How international athletes find their way to Northwest

ANDREW CLARK
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Students at Northwest represent 34 different countries and all have various backgrounds that shape who they are. Northwest tennis is a prime example of how different cultures can all come together to form into one team.

All of these athletes come from all over the world with the team covering 25 different countries within that 10-year period. The process of getting to Northwest for international students isn’t just taking an ACT and submitting a good high school GPA. These student-athletes are required to follow a process and pay around \$2,500 to agents to help them find a school that fits them the best.

These agents that are hired send out the players’ transcripts and other needed documentation into the transfer portal. Some of the information includes scores from the SAT, English as a Foreign Language test and a video of the athlete playing tennis.

After a few weeks of a player being in the portal, the agent will give the player a list of schools that are interested. Then, the agent gives the player their recommendation of what is the best fit. Like most students, the decision is based on factors such as distance from home, academics and expenses. The amount of money needed for going to school is usually the biggest deciding factor because of international students’ budget.

Senior Tessa Kwakernaak is from the Netherlands, and she said her process of coming here actually began by receiving a direct message from an agent on Instagram. The agent reached out and told her she was at the perfect age to begin the process of coming over to the United States to play collegiate tennis.

After her agent began the process, Kwakernaak said she took a while to sign due to an injury that delayed her recruitment video from being seen. Eventually, she signed to be a Bearcat in late June 2020 — just a few weeks before reporting to campus.

Kwakernaak said money was a part of the decision-making process, but finding the right team was the main objective.

“I had other full scholarship offers, and I wanted to play somewhere good for tennis,” Kwakernaak said. “They (the Bearcats) were top 10 in the nation when I signed, they just went to nationals and the money with the combination of good tennis is why I came here.”

Coach Mark Rosewell has been coaching Bearcat tennis since 1984 and said recruiting international athletes has been happening at Northwest for 50 years.

Northwest, early on, was known as the team for having foreign players on its team. But, lately, Rosewell said college tennis has moved into bringing in even more international athletes on a team’s roster.

The entire process for Rosewell has changed a lot in

his years of recruiting. In the past, Rosewell would spend several weeks traveling to various parts of the world to watch players he has heard about. After watching them play and determining that they are a fit for the program, Rosewell would then offer the chance for that athlete to come on a visit to Northwest. Possibly during the visit or after, the player would receive an athletic scholarship.

While this process is what used to happen, the improvement in technology has allowed him to travel less and find the players that fit the team.

“In the earlier days, we would go by word of mouth, and I might go down to Mexico every year — Costa Rica a couple of times — basically just looking for players,” Rosewell said. “Now everything is on the computer. We get emails every day from people all around the world looking to come. It is a pretty easy process. The only thing is finding out if that player is talented enough to play on your team.”

These international athletes see similar issues that first-time college students experience themselves. However, some of the issues these players may encounter are not typical for a student from the United States. After coming over, some could have a language barrier, homesickness and feeling culturally out of place.

Senior and three-time MIAA/Great American Conference Player of the Year Andrea Zamurri has been a student-athlete at Northwest since fall 2019. Zamurri said the first semester on campus was challenging trying to deal with being in the United States by himself.

One of those challenges of being by himself came from the food choices in the U.S. Zamurri said he wishes his grandmother was around occasionally to make him some home-cooked food.

25
different countries
Northwest tennis athletes
have come from in the
past 10 years.

“Food, of course, is like a big part,” Zamurri said. “Coming from Italy, I miss Italian food a lot. That was tough for me in the beginning because I was forced to eat in the (J.W. Jones Student) Union every day. It was very tough, but living off campus is a little bit better.”

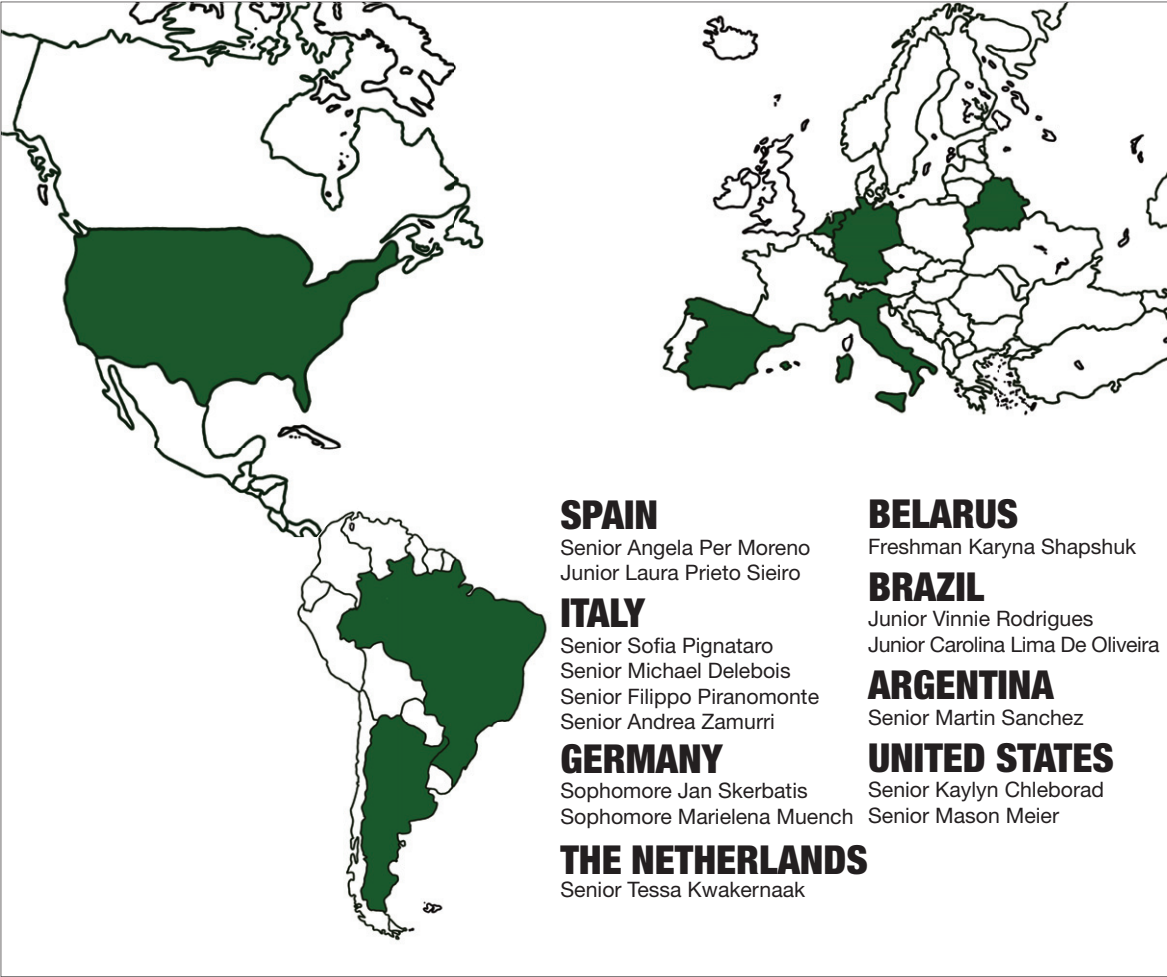
After the first semester, Zamurri said being surrounded by teammates going through similar struggles is what helped him a lot. Being around a group of people who all were battling with being away from home and fitting in created great team chemistry for him.

Zamurri said he quickly no-



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest men’s tennis sophomore Jan Skerbatis dribbles the ball off of the ground with his racket in between sets during practice Oct. 24. The team is preparing for its spring season.

WHERE NORTHWEST TENNIS PLAYERS ARE FROM



INFOGRAPHIC BY SIDNEY LOWRY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ticed the cultural differences between the United States and his home country of Italy. One of these differences was the amount of physical contact people don’t make to one another. In Europe, there is a lot of hugging and kissing someone on the cheek as a way of saying, “Hello.” But, Zamurri said in the U.S. it could be weird to many.

“I feel like being here in the U.S., if you don’t know someone right away, they are much more friendly than they are in Europe,” Zamurri said. “But as you get to know each other in Europe, real quick, after you know someone for two hours you are like brothers basically.”

Kwakernaak also said she felt homesick after a few weeks on campus. Seeing videos of her friends back home or being gone for a family member’s birthday was the reason she began missing home.

Kwakernaak said she has given advice to some of the younger players about how to handle that feeling. The team also tries to do as much as it can together to make everyone feel like they have a family at Northwest and are supported.

“Most people, I tell them to

stay busy, make as many friends here as you can, don’t spend too many days alone, call your family as much as you can and, at the end of the day, you’re going to have friends and family here,” Kwaker-

naak said. “I think it’s cool to see people from different cultures, and it’s just fun to meet people from different cultures. I think sometimes we don’t realize how cool it is that we get to share that.”

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Onto Washburn

Northwest football looks to bounce back after Homecoming loss.
see A6

SPORTS

Oct. 26, 2023 | @NWMSports X

From around the globe
Northwest tennis talks about how international recruitment works.
see A7

Maryville XC teams look to advance to state in district races

TANNER HUDNALL
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Maryville’s cross country boys and girls teams are competing to keep both of its seasons alive at the Class 3 District 4 meet Oct. 28 at Platte Ridge Park in Platte City, Missouri.

The boys team is heading into the weekend with hopes of leaving with a berth to the state meet for the fifth-consecutive season. Junior Dylan Masters said he feels pressure heading into the meet but nothing the runners can’t handle.

“I love running, and that’s why I’m here,” Masters said. “The pressure of advancing through to state is on everyone’s minds, we just need to make sure, as a team, the pressure and moment never gets too big for us.”

The Midland Empire Conference meet Oct. 17 was a successful competition for the Spoofhounds before districts as the boys finished second in the meet.

The highest finisher for Maryville was junior Bradley Deering, who finished fourth with a time of 16 minutes, 38 seconds and 74 milliseconds. Senior Connor Blackford finished eighth with a mark of 17:48.72, and Masters finished the meet in 12th place with a time of 17:59.89.

Coach Rodney Bade said he knows the pressure is there for both of his teams heading into the meet. He said he believes in his teams to perform like they have been, which should be enough to qualify for the state meet.

UP NEXT

Class 3 District 4 Tournament
Oct. 28
Platte City, Missouri

SEE RACES | A6

Districts ahead for boys soccer

AIDAN BROCKLEMAN
Sports Reporter | @BrocklemanAidan

Maryville boys soccer will compete against Cameron for its first Class 1 District 8 game at 5 p.m. Oct. 30 in Cameron, Missouri.

With districts approaching, Maryville took first seed in its four-team district, and Cameron is the fourth seed. The Spoofhounds are looking to win their fourth district title in a row — after winning the Midland Empire Conference for the third-straight season. With the recent success, senior defender Boyd Gallaher knows the challenge of winning districts.

“I’m really excited,” Gallaher said. “I think it’s going to be a hard game like it has before, but we’ve been preparing for it.”

Maryville (13-3) has already played the Dragons (2-14) and won 9-1 Sept. 21. This extended the Spoofhounds’ win streak to 26 against their district and conference foe.

The five times these teams have played in the postseason since 2012, Maryville has always come out on top.

The Spoofhounds will look to continue their dominance over the Dragons into the next match, as they have shut out Cameron 13 times since 2009. Maryville is hoping to have the same results against Cameron like the eight-goal win the last time the two teams faced off.

The ’Hounds shut out two MEC foes, Savannah in 8-0 fashion Oct. 16 and Lafayette-St. Joseph in 5-0 fashion Oct. 19.

They will look to keep this momentum heading onto the first district match. With the recent success against Lafayette and Savannah, Gallaher said he wants it to keep going.

“We played really well and got a good shutouts against them,” Gallaher said. “We are just trying to carry over the momentum we had from that match on to the next.”

After coming off of a 1-0 loss from Barstow (9-7) at the KC Showcase 1-0 Oct. 6 and a 3-1 loss to St. Pius X (9-11) 3-1 Oct. 12, the ’Hounds have found their way back to winning.

UP NEXT

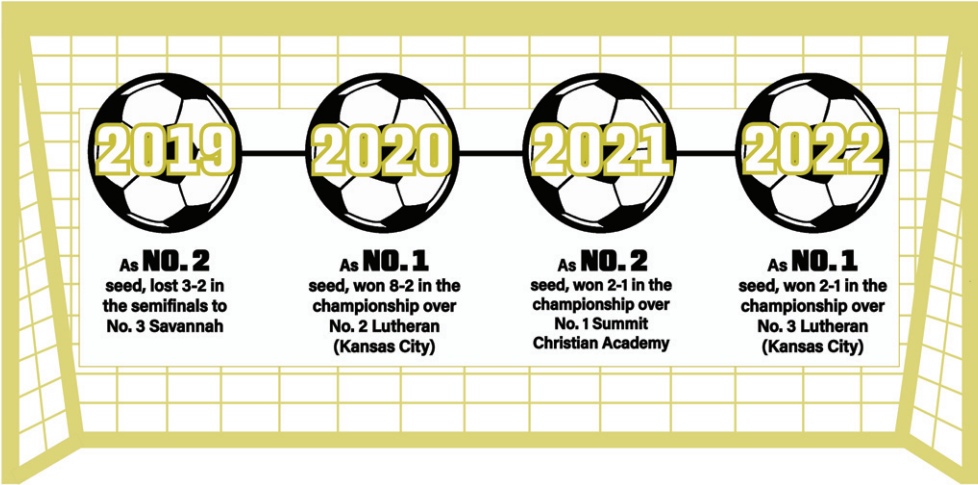
Class 1 District 8 Tournament
5 p.m. Oct. 30
Cameron, Missouri

SEE DISTRICTS | A6



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Maryville boys soccer senior midfielder Kason Teale settles the ball during the 8-0 win against Savannah Oct. 16. The Spoofhounds also celebrated senior day and honored eight seniors.

LAST FOUR DISTRICT RESULTS FOR BOYS SOCCER



INFOGRAPHIC BY JULIANNA LAWRENCE ASST. DESIGN EDITOR



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
Northwest volleyball junior middle hitter Abby Brunssen jumps up to push the ball over the net at the team’s 3-0 loss against Missouri Western Oct. 24. Brunssen recorded 10 total kills against the Griffons.

Bearcat volleyball drops match amid five-game home stretch

STEVEN CROSBY
Sports Reporter | @sicsteve27

Northwest volleyball is set to host No. 25 Washburn Oct. 27 and Emporia State Oct. 28 after being swept by Missouri Western Oct. 24.

Coach Amy Woerth said although the team is disappointed in the outcome of the Western match, there is no reason for the Bearcats to lose confidence.

“They just need to look into themselves and what they’ve done well before,” Woerth said moments after the loss to the Griffons. “Obviously tonight wasn’t something that we liked, and we don’t want to see that happen — but it did, and you can’t let that take your confidence away.”

Northwest (12-10, 7-7 MIAA) is taking on Washburn (14-7, 8-6 MIAA) for the second time this season. The last match went to five sets, as the Ichabods defeated the Bearcats 3-2 Sept. 30.

Next for Northwest will be Emporia (11-10, 5-8 MIAA). The Bearcats defeated the Hornets Sept. 29 in another five-set match.

Junior outside hitter Payton Kirchhoeffer said Northwest needs to focus on what it is doing offensively going into the weekend.

“Teams are doing a lot of different things to us, but it really comes down to how we’re going to play,” Kirchhoefer said.

2017

is the last season that Missouri Western defeated Northwest volleyball.

“If we put the best of ourselves out there, then we are going to beat teams. Right now, we’re not playing together as a team as much as we should. So once we get that all together, I think we’re going to be a great team.”

Northwest is ranked sixth in the MIAA going into the week-

UP NEXT

NW vs. Washburn
6 p.m. Oct. 27
Bearcat Arena

NW vs. Emporia State
3 p.m. Oct. 28
Bearcat Arena

end, barely staying in contention to make the MIAA Tournament Nov. 16-18. The team will need to stay within the top eight to earn a postseason berth.

The Bearcats fell to Western (16-7, 9-5 MIAA) for the first time since 2017. Junior libero Kristen Ford said a big part of the loss was the Griffons having a tough offense.

“I think they were just placing shots well — they were using our block a lot,” Ford said. “We just needed to communicate better at a higher level in our offensive systems and be more disciplined going forward.”

SEE VOLLEYBALL | A6



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